

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13686

FOR EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, RP
SUBJECT: ER WALLEYE AND BULLPUP

REF: (A) STATE 188411, (B) MANILA 11716, (C) MANILA 12713,
- (D) 77 STATE 90265, (E) STATE 187767

1. WE ARE BECOMING CONCERNED THAT SERIES OF NEGATIVE SIGNALS TO GOP IN SECURITY AREA, SUCH AS (A) CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO CUT FY 79 MAP PROGRAM, (B) CONTINUING HOLD ON LICENSES FOR PENDING MILITARY SALES CASES AND (C) REFUSAL TO RELEASE ER WALLEYE, WILL GENERATE REACTION HERE WHICH COULD WORK AGAINST OUR EFFORTS TO PROCEED WITH BASE DISCUSSIONS IN AN UNEMOTIONAL AND PRODUCTIVE WAY.

2. WE KNOW THAT THE BATTLE HAS LONG BEEN JOINED ON THE FY 79 MAP PROGRAM; WE KNOW TOO THAT DEBATE CONTINUES ON THE PENDING MILITARY SALES REQUESTS. WE ARE NOT SO CLEAR ON THE QUESTION OF A MISSILE SYSTEM FOR THE F-8 AIRCRAFT. AIR FORCE CHIEF SARMIENTO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THIS WEEK THAT AS ALTERNATIVES TO THE ER WALLEYE THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE STANDARD WALLEYE (I OR II) OR THE BULLPUP (A AND B).

3. WE HAVE DELIBERATELY DELAYED INFORMING GOP OF TURN-CONFIDENTIAL

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DOWN ON THEIR ER WALLEYE REQUEST SO AS: (A) TO AVOID ADDITIONAL NEGATIVE SIGNAL IN SECURITY FIELD AT TIME MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS ARE GOING WELL; AND (B) NOT TO RISK TROUBLING AMBASSADOR'S NEXT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS DURING WHICH HE WILL DISCUSS BASE INDUSTRIALIZATION ISSUE (REF E). (MEETING NOW SET FOR AUGUST 9.) WE WOULD ALSO HOPE, BEFORE INFORMING GOP OF WALLEYE TURN-DOWN, TO

HAVE CLEARER SENSE OF WHERE CONGRESS MAY COME OUT ON FY 79 MAP PROGRAM. WE ANTICIPATE THAT WHEN THE TURN-DOWN ON THE ER WALLEYE IS CONVEYED TO THE GOP, THE AFP MAY NEXT REQUEST THE WALLEYE OR THE BULLPUP. AS INDICATED IN REF C, WE BELIEVE THE BULLPUP MAKES MOST SENSE FOR THE PHILIPPINES AND WE WOULD RECOMMEND A MAJOR EFFORT TO RELEASE IT, ASSUMING ITS AVAILABILITY.

4. IN ORDER (A) TO MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR AN EMOTIONAL GOP REACTION TO AN ABRUPT RESPONSE ON ER WALLEYE AND (B) TO AVOID CONVEYING THE POSSIBLE IMPRESSION WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO LOOK AT A REQUEST FOR A LESS SOPHISTICATED SUBSTITUTE FOR THE ER WALLEYE, SUCH AS THE BULLPUP, WE PLAN TO SUPPLEMENT THE INSTRUCTION IN REF A (WHICH WILL BE DELIVERED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE), WITH AN ORAL COMMENT TO ENRILE AND PERHAPS OTHERS (DRAWN FROM REF D), THAT "WHILE THIS PARTICULAR WEAPON IS NOT AVAILABLE, WE ARE OPEN TO GOP SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT OTHER SYSTEMS MIGHT MEET THEIR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS."

5. NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION. MURPHY

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